Rio Source of Property.

Our Sense of Proportion.

Mt.23:23 These things ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone."

INTRO. Text from one of the seven woes of Jesus against the pharisees and scribes. Read.

These religious leaders of X's time had emphasized certain minor duties, to the neglect of the more important duties.

Jonothan Edwards defined religion as the knowledge of great things as being great and of small things as being small and acting upon that knowledge.

The same truth found in theparables of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price. In these parables Jesus puts his stamp of approval upon the recognition of ascertained values and consequent action in regard to them.

I. The common tendency to become unbalanced, lop-sided in one's ideas and interests and activities.

Politicians are aware of this tendency-change of public opinion.

Fashions in more than just clothes- fashions in politics, business, society, and even in religion that come and go with thechange of the seasons.

The principle of proportion as indicated in our text gives us the corrective of this tendency.

Proper Proportion holds the balance between true progress and panic; between steadfast fidelity and mere fanaticism.

II. In matters of religion the application of proper proportion has been most difficult.

1. Church scisims and denominational shattering of the mother church due mos altogether to a lac of this sense of proportion.

2. Home and foreign missions.

III. Destructives of Proper Proportion.

1. Self in the foreground.
The disciples of John the Baptist complained to John that Jesus was attracting mor attention than he.
"He must increase, but I must decrease."

2. Low aims.
Trojan kick blocked-punted too low.
The sick woman watching the birds build their nest in the bush by her window.
"Oh, birds," she cried,"build higher".
Later a cat had been busy about that bush, and all that was left of the young birds and the nest was feathers
"Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith on heaven's tablelamd,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."
More than a song- a prayer, a life-attitude

3. Insufficient time devoted to spiritual matters.
"Take time to be holy" we often sing.
It does take time to be holy. We simply must take time for meditation and prayer and fellowship with God if we are to make any real progress and growth in spiritual insight and character.

PROPORTION: PRAYER AND WORK

On the front page of the *Endeavor World* for May 10, 1923, is the picture of an engineer about to mount the engine and underneath this is what it says: "George Benis, of Indianapolis, Ind., is here shown boarding his engine for his last run after fifty-three years' service with the Big Four Railroad. In all that time he has not had a single accident. But then the quality of his service may be judged from the fact that he never made a run without first kneeling in the cab of his engine and praying that the Lord might help him to bring the passengers safely to their journey's end. He was seventy years old when he retired with this unique record."

3.In the work of saving the lost, we often place the wrong emphasis.

According to the Bible all men of all classes have fallen short of the mark and are sinners who need to be saved.

But somehow the words sinner, fallen, lost have come to be applied mostly to members of the lower strata of society- those who live in the slums, those who live loose moral lives, criminals, drunkards, etc

Rescue the perishing is the popular idea of the work of salvation.

Carrying the Gospel of Christ to the so-called upper levels of society, to the decent, self-respecting classes of people, is just as much a part of the saving power of the Gospel as is Salvation army work in theslums of the big cities.

If we can teach our boys and girls to build their lives upon the solid rock instead of waiting until they build upon the sands of sin and then rescuing them when their houses topple over, we are teaching the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

The work of teaching in our sunday schools is just as integral part of the plan of salvation as is the holding revival meetings in the slum districts. And I believe it to be more effectual in results.

Calvin Coolidge: "The foundations of our society and of our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them, if faith in these teachings should cease to be practically universal in our country."

III.